

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-6 are pending in the above-identified application.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. and Tanaka et al. Claim 4 is amended to include,

... the frame holding the substrate has a protrusion extending from the bottom surface of the substrate along the side surface of the substrate to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate...** (Emphasis added).

Basis for these amendments may be found, for example, at Figure 3(b). With regard to claim 1, neither Yamazaki et al., Tanaka et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest a protrusion extending to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**

Yamazaki et al. includes a holder 102 for holding substrate 103. (Fig. 1A). The holder 102 is, however, superimposed over the top surface of the substrate 103. In contrast, the protrusion in the exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention is not superimposed over the top surface 13B of the substrate 13. (Fig. 3(b)). The exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention includes a substrate 13 having a top surface 13B and a bottom surface 13A. The frames 2 include protrusions 5 which extend from the bottom surface 13A to a height greater than the top surface 13B. Thus, the frame holding the substrate in Applicants' exemplary embodiment "...has a protrusion extending from the bottom surface of the substrate along the side surface of the substrate to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**"

Tanaka et al. includes a frame 14. The frame 14 in Tanaka et al. does not, however, include "...a protrusion extending to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate,"** as recited in claim 4. Thus, claim 4 is allowable over the art of record.

Claims 1 and 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al. and Tanaka et al. With regard to claim 4, neither Kondo et al.,

Tanaka et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest "...a protrusion extending to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**" Tanaka et al. is described above. The Examiner argues that Kondo et al. includes a frame "...provided with a protrusion (portion of the substrate holder 1 extending to a non-deposition face of the substrate 2) held in such a way as to surround the substrate." (Page 3, lines 18-21). The back plate 3 in Kondo et al. is, however, superimposed over the substrate 2. (Col. 6, lines 24-25 and Fig. 2). As described above, the protrusion in the exemplary embodiment of Applicants' invention is not superimposed over the top surface 13B of the substrate 13. (Fig. 3(b)). Thus, claim 4 is allowable over the art of record.

Claim 1, while not identical to claim 4, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4. Thus, claim 1 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4.

Claims 1 and 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dubs and Tanaka et al. With regard to claims 1 and 4, neither Dubs, Tanaka et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest that the "...substrate is held by its periphery with at least one of the frames..." and "...a protrusion extending to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**" Tanaka et al. is described above. The substrate carrier in Dubs includes "...an external, rectangular frame 20 which exhibits inclined **supporting surfaces** along it's opposing inner surfaces..." (Col. 5, lines 53-55 Fig. 5). Dubs does not disclose "...the substrate is **held by its periphery** with at least one of the frames..." Thus, claims 1 and 4 are allowable over the art of record.

Claims 2 and 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al., Tanaka et al. and Patadia et al. With regard to claim 4, neither Dubs, Tanaka et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest that the "...substrate is held by its periphery with at least one of the frames..." and "...a protrusion extending from the bottom surface of the substrate along a side surface of the substrate to **a height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**" Tanaka et al. and Kondo et al. are described above.

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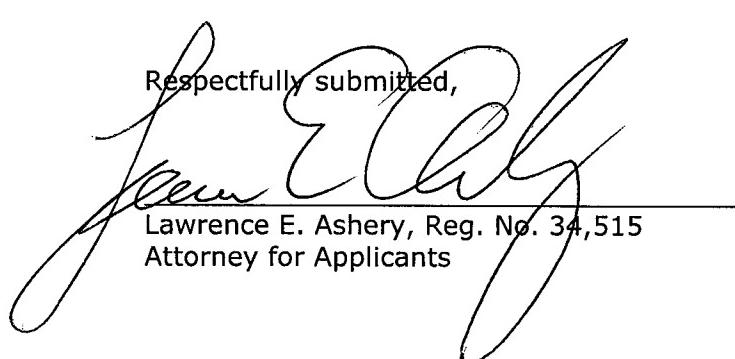
Patadia et al. discloses a substrate support member 110 having a channel 116 disposed around the perimeter of a substrate and a dam 132 (protrusion). (Fig. 9). Patadia et al. does not, however, show a substrate of any kind. Further, Patadia et al. does not disclose the location of the substrate with respect to the dam 132. Thus, Patadia et al. does not disclose "...a protrusion extending from the bottom surface of the substrate along a side surface of the substrate to a **height greater than a height of the substrate without being superimposed over the top surface of the substrate.**" Thus, claim 4 is allowable over the art of record. As described above, claim 1, while not identical to claim 4, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4. Thus, claim 1 is also allowable over the art of record for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 4. Claim 2 is allowable because it depends from allowable claim 1.

Claims 3 and 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kondo et al., Tanaka et al. and Hiroki et al. Claims 3 and 6 are allowable because they depend from allowable claims.

Claims 3 and 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Dubs, Tanaka et al. and Hiroki et al. Claims 3 and 6 are allowable because they depend from allowable claims.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/DFD/dmw

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P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

ds/142618